



News for Immediate Release

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**Drought Preparedness Workshop with San Geronio Pass Water Agency**

The Department of Water Resources and the San Geronio Pass Water Agency are holding a public workshop from 9 a.m. to noon on February 11, 2003, to summarize current water conditions, drought preparedness actions, reliability of State Water Project deliveries, and Pass Area groundwater resources. The workshop will be held at the Banning Civic Center's Council Chambers, 99 East Ramsey Street in Banning. Information about State financial assistance opportunities for local agencies will also be presented.

Water years 2001 and 2002 were both classified as dry. Southern California precipitation was substantially below normal in 2002, reaching record or near-record lows in many areas. For inland Southern California, 2002 was the fourth consecutive dry year. Customers of large urban water agencies did not experience shortages, thanks to imported water supplies. Water shortages were confined to small, isolated Inland Empire communities relying on fractured rock groundwater sources.

Water year 2003 began with dry river basins statewide and depleted groundwater basins in some areas. Although a wet December through mid-January 2003 brought statewide snowpack conditions to above-average levels for the time of year, it is still too early to reliably estimate the water year type. Snow pack accumulation at the end of February will provide a better indication of whether the year will be wet or dry.

For background on droughts and drought preparedness, see:  
<http://watersupplyconditions.water.ca.gov/>.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project,

provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

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